

NSC BRIEFING

See m/R

26 March 1958

SUPREME SOVIET MEETING (short)

- I. USSR may be planning announcement of unilateral suspension of at least some portion of nuclear production and testing program.
 - A. Today's session of Supreme Soviet ^could provide occasion.
- II. High tempo of recent Soviet testing perhaps indicates an attempt to complete quickly current series.
 - A. Soviets may shortly achieve immediate goals in developing light-weight, high-yield, thermonuclear warheads.
- III. No compelling technical reasons to prevent unilateral moratorium on thermonuclear weapons tests for limited period.
 - A. USSR could also get big political benefits from this.
 - B. But announcement probably would contain qualifications permitting USSR to resume testing at least small devices should other powers fail to follow suit.
 - C. Moreover announcement on stopping production of all nuclear weapons is unlikely because we estimate that weapons requirements have not been met.
- IV. Unilateral test suspension would undercut Western efforts to establish inspection system and might also intensify pressure on US for summit talks.
- V. Known items of business will be approval of Khrushchev's MTS scheme and personnel changes including possible replacement of Bulganin.

See m/R of meeting.